

Decommissioning: The Next Steps

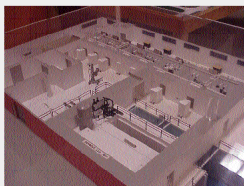
While vessel segmentation is taking place in the Reactor Facility, NASA is also making preparations for the planned demolition of the other on-site structures.

Removal, packaging and shipping of loose equipment from all structures on the site (outlying buildings).

Removal and surveying of 478 PCB contaminated ballasts and 657 fluorescent tubes sent out as hazardous waste.

Asbestos sampling and abatement where necessary.

THE NEXT STEP: HOT DRY STORAGE



Next to the reactor vessel, Hot Dry Storage has the second highest levels of radioactivity (9,000 curies).

Hot Dry Storage is a 25-foot deep vault, sealed on top with 6-foot thick concrete slabs. NASA's investigations reveal that a cart of used control rods and previously encased beryllium plates stored there since the Reactor Facility closed, appear to be the source of most of the radiation dose in the vault. Removal of these and other loose equipment in Hot Dry Storage is scheduled to begin in 2004.

FINAL STEPS:

With waste contracts finalized, it now appears certain alternate disposal strategies may be available. NASA is exploring these options and the possible benefits of removing structures with lesser levels of contamination sooner than originally planned.

Existing Sequence

1. Decontaminate the remaining structures.
2. Conduct a final radiological survey of the site.
3. Demolish the remaining decontaminated structures.
4. Backfill areas with clean soil.
5. Terminate the license.

Sequence Under Consideration

1. Decontaminate the remaining structures.
2. Conduct a final radiological survey of the site.
3. Terminate the license.
4. Demolish the remaining decontaminated structures.
5. Backfill areas with clean soil.

The ultimate clean up level is the same safe level with either sequence.

NASA is committed

to meeting the strict criteria for

"unrestricted use"

of the Reactor Facility site.

Unrestricted use means that someone could safely live on the site, eat all the crops grown, and drink groundwater from the site.

The new sequence would avoid disposing of "clean" demolition debris as low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) since there are other alternatives available.

"CLEAN DEBRIS"

DISPOSAL OPTION

Construction & demolition (C&D) debris

(wood, plaster, drywall, ceiling tiles, water pipe, roofing, windows, etc.)

..... send to a county landfill

Clean hard fill

(concrete and masonry, excluding asphalt)

..... remains on-site (as it would with either sequence) and be used as fill.

Structural steel

..... send for recycling

Reactor Facility site before...and after decommissioning.



NASA expects to complete decommissioning by 2007.